CLAIMS:

1.   A computerized system for facilitating transactions in goods, the system comprising:

means for allowing electronic procurement of a purchase order agreement between a seller and a buyer and relating to a transaction in one or more goods, and for electronically storing the purchase order agreement;

means for receiving and storing electronic evidence that the seller has performed in connection with fulfilling the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement;

means for electronically providing an opportunity for at least one of the seller and the buyer to obtain, through the system, cargo insurance relating to the one or more goods to insure against risk of loss in connection with shipment of the one or more goods in accordance with the transaction; and

means for electronically evaluating whether the seller has complied with the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement.

2.   A computerized system for facilitating transactions in goods, the system comprising:

means for allowing electronic procurement of a purchase order agreement between a seller and a buyer and relating to a transaction in one or more goods, and for electronically storing the purchase order agreement;

means for receiving and storing electronic evidence that the seller has performed in connection with fulfilling the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement;

means for electronically providing an opportunity for at least one of the seller and the buyer to obtain, through the system, cargo insurance relating to the one or more goods to

insure against risk of loss in connection with shipment of the one or more goods in accordance with the transaction;

means for electronically evaluating whether the seller has complied with the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement;

means for electronically providing a payment instruction if the seller has been evaluated to have complied with the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement; and

means for receiving and storing electronic evidence that the buyer has made one or more payments in connection with fulfilling buyer's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement.

3.   The system of claim 2, wherein the cargo insurance insures against a risk of loss in relation to the one or more goods occurring at any time during shipment of the one or more goods from the seller to the buyer.

4.   The system of claim 3, comprising means for determining, based upon information electronically stored by the system, which of the buyer and the seller is to be provided with an option to purchase the cargo insurance.

5.   The system of claim 4, comprising means for determining which one party of the seller and the buyer bears a majority of the risk, and wherein the one party is provided with the option of purchasing the cargo insurance.

6.   The system of claim 5, wherein the one party is determined based upon one or more shipping terms agreed to by the seller and the buyer and electronically stored by the system.

7.   The system of claim 6, wherein the one or more shipping terms comprise one or more

5   Inco terms.

8.   The system of claim 6, wherein the one party is determined based upon which of the seller and the buyer is determined to bear the risk for a greater amount of shipping time.

10   9.   The system of claim 6, wherein the one party is determined based upon which of the seller and the buyer is determined to bear the risk for a greater amount of shipping distance.

10.   The system of claim 2, wherein an obligation to pay the insurance premium is shared between the seller and the buyer such that each of the seller and the buyer are obligated to pay a

15   specified percentage.

11.   The system of claim 2, wherein the cargo insurance, if purchased, must be purchased together by the seller and the buyer, and wherein the seller agrees to pay a first percentage of a premium required to obtain the cargo insurance, and wherein the buyer agrees to pay a second

20   percentage of the premium.

12.   The system of claim 11, wherein the first percentage and the second percentage are determined by the system to correspond with a ratio of the seller's risk of loss in relation to the

one or more goods occurring during shipping and the buyer's risk of loss in relation to the one or more goods occurring during shipping.

13.   The system of claim 12, wherein the ratio is determined based upon one or more shipping terms agreed to by the seller and the buyer and electronically stored by the system.

14.   The system of claim 13, wherein the one or more shipping terms comprise one or more Inco terms.

15.   The system of claim 3, comprising means for calculating a cargo insurance premium required to purchase the cargo insurance based upon information electronically stored in the system and relating to at least one of the one or more goods or services and the shipment of the one or more goods or services.

16.   The system of claim 15, wherein the cargo insurance premium is determined at least in part based upon at least one of a location to be shipped from, a location to be shipped to, a means of shipment, and a party responsible for purchasing of the one or more goods.

17.   The system of claim 2, comprising means for the system evaluating whether a first set of payment guarantee criteria are met, and means for, if the first set of payment guarantee criteria are evaluated to be met, the system providing a payment guarantee to the seller to guarantee payment by the buyer in connection with the purchase order agreement.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the first set of criteria comprises at least one of a credit exposure of the buyer being evaluated by the system to be within a specified maximum credit exposure, and the seller being evaluated by the system to have complied with the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement.

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19. The system of claim 2, wherein the means for electronically evaluating whether the seller has complied with the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement comprises means for electronically evaluating whether the seller has complied with at least a portion of the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement, and wherein means for

10 electronically providing a payment instruction if the seller has been evaluated to have complied with the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement comprises means for electronically providing a payment instruction if the seller has been evaluated to have complied with the at least a portion of the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement.

15 20. The system of claim 2, wherein the cargo insurance insures against risk in connection with at least one of noninsurance of the one or more goods, underinsurance of the one or more goods, and partial insurance of the one or more goods.

21. The system of claim 2, wherein the cargo insurance provides coverage over a specified

20 period of time.

22. The system of claim 2, wherein the cargo insurance insures against risk of loss in connection with damage to the goods.

23. The system of claim 2, wherein the cargo insurance insures against risk of at least one of loss of the goods and loss resulting from damage to the goods, and wherein the cargo insurance covers risk existing during transit of the goods, the transit not necessarily being limited to

5   movement of the goods from a location of the seller to a location of the buyer.

24. The system of claim 2, wherein the cargo insurance is purchased by one of the seller and the buyer, and wherein the cargo insurance is for the benefit of both the seller and the buyer.

10   25. A computerized system for facilitating transactions in goods or services, the system comprising:

   means for allowing electronic procurement of a purchase order agreement between a seller and a buyer and relating to a transaction in one or more goods or services, and for electronically storing the purchase order agreement;

15   means for receiving and storing electronic evidence that the seller has performed in connection with fulfilling the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement;

   means for electronically providing an opportunity for at least one of the seller and the buyer to obtain, through the system, cargo insurance relating to the one or more goods or services to insure against at least one of risk of loss in connection with shipment of at least one

20   of the one or more goods in accordance with the transaction, and risk of loss in connection with nonperformance of at least one of the one or more services;

   means for electronically evaluating whether the seller has complied with the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement;

means for electronically providing a payment instruction if the seller has been evaluated to have complied with the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement; and

means for receiving and storing electronic evidence that the buyer has made one

5 or more payments in connection with fulfilling buyer's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement.

26. A computerized method for facilitating transactions in goods, the method comprising:

allowing electronic procurement of a purchase order agreement between a seller

10 and a buyer and relating to a transaction in one or more goods, and electronically storing the purchase order agreement;

receiving and storing electronic evidence that the seller has performed in connection with fulfilling the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement;

electronically providing an opportunity for at least one of the seller and the buyer

15 to obtain, through the system, cargo insurance relating to the one or more goods to insure against risk of loss in connection with shipment of the one or more goods in accordance with the transaction; and

electronically evaluating whether the seller has complied with the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement.

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27. A computerized method for facilitating transactions in goods, the method comprising:

allowing electronic procurement of a purchase order agreement between a seller and a buyer and relating to a transaction in one or more goods, and electronically storing the purchase order agreement;

receiving and storing electronic evidence that the seller has performed in connection with fulfilling the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement;

electronically providing an opportunity for at least one of the seller and the buyer to obtain, through the system, cargo insurance relating to the one or more goods to insure against risk of loss in connection with shipment of the one or more goods in accordance with the transaction;

electronically evaluating whether the seller has complied with the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement;

electronically providing a payment instruction if the seller has been evaluated to have complied with the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement; and

receiving and storing electronic evidence that the buyer has made one or more payments in connection with fulfilling buyer's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement.